

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 3348

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, CY
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW WITH SECRETARY VANCE

1. GOC PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DP) WILL BEGIN PUBLICATION OF ITS OWN NEWSPAPER, ELEFThERI KYPROS, ON DEC. 31. KYPRIANOU'S CLOSE POLITICAL ASSOCIATE, NICOS ROLANDIS, IS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF THE NEW PUBLICATION.

2. ON DEC. 23, ROLANDIS REQUESTED EMBASSY ARRANGE AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT CARTER BY ELEFThERI KYPROS EDITOR IN CHIEF, GEORGE FILIS. BASED ON GUIDANCE TO PAO'S FROM USIA, WE ADVISED ROLANDIS THAT GUIDELINES FOR PRESIDENTIAL INTERVIEWS ARE VERY STRICT AND EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE.

3. ROLANDIS ACCEPTED THIS BUT THEN ASKED IF FILIS MIGHT HAVE AN INTERVIEW WITH SECRETARY VANCE OR SOME OTHER SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL CONCERNED WITH CYPRUS. ROLANDIS HOPED THAT INTERVIEW COULD TAKE PLACE EARLY IN JANUARY 1978 TO DEMONSTRATE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NEW NEWSPAPER AND THE WESTERN ORIENTATION OF THE DP. ROLANDIS WOULD SEND
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FILIS TO U.S. FOR THE INTERVIEW AT SHORT NOTICE. WE AGREED TO FORWARD THIS REQUEST TO THE DEPARTMENT. REQUEST GUIDANCE FOR RESPONSE TO ROLANDIS.

4. COMMENT: ROLANDIS IS ONE OF KYPRIANOU'S TWO OR THREE CLOSEST POLITICAL ASSOCIATES AND HAS IN THE PAST SERVED AS A CHANNEL FOR INFORMAL COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE

PRESIDENT AND THE EMBASSY. WE BELIEVE THE REQUEST FOR A HIGH-LEVEL INTERVIEW WAS MADE WITH KYPRIANOU'S BLESSING. ROLANDIS REPRESENTS THE CONSERVATIVE ELEMENT OF KYPRIANOU'S SUPPORT AND PROBABLY HOPES THAT INTERVIEW WITH A SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL WOULD STRENGTHEN THE HAD OF HIS FACTION IN THE COALITION WHICH SUPPORTS KYPRIANOU. WHILE KYPRIANOU (AND ROLANDIS) WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE PLEASED TO HAVE EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW FOR FILIS WITH THE SECRETARY, WE BELIEVE WE COULD JUSTIFY A REFUSAL ON THE GROUNDS OF THE EXPECTED SMALL CIRCULATION OF THE NEWS-PAPER, ITS PAROCHIAL OUTLOOK AND REQUIREMENT TO MINIMIZE EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS BY THE SECRETARY. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF WE COULD OFFER AND INTERVIEW WITH MR. CLIFFORD, WHOSE COMMENTS ON THE CYPRUS PROBLEM WOULD BE READ WITH CONSIDERABLE INTEREST BY THE GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC.

CRAWFORD

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